

80th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR ETHEL B. BOSTON

A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD FOR ETHEL B. BOSTON ON FEBRUARY 19, 1994

PLACE..... RAMADA INN ROUTE 13- DUPONT HIGHWAY _ NEWCASTLE, DEL

TIME.....12:00 NOON

RESERVATIONS.....\$20.00 TO INCLUDE GIFT

CELEBRATION GIVEN BY HER BROTHERS CHARLES, W. THOMAS, GEORGE P, AND SISTER
NORMA B. PARSON.

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM FAMILY MEMBERS OR SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER MADE OUT TO

NORMA PARSON

512 W. 38th STREET

WILM, DEL 19802

302 ..764 0652

ALL RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY FEB 15, 1994

W. THOMAS BRAXTON

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Tickets now available

1/27/94

Mrs. Ethel B. Boston-
320 E. 5th St., #321
Wilmington, DE 19801-4461

Dear Mrs. Boston,

I wish it were possible for me to get to your 80th birthday party!

Travel is unsafe for me and it has not been safe for me to drive out of Frederick since 1977 and I haven't.

I see Alma only when a friend drives her here and Gloria when she has time and is visiting her son who lives near Washington.

Alma did send me the nice story on one of your brothers who is active in community affairs and I think was president of his local community association.

When I worked for the News they'd never have printed any story like that!

In those more blighted days he'd not have been allowed to live there.

If Alma did not tell you, we loved your mother.

She was a lovely, lovable woman in every way.

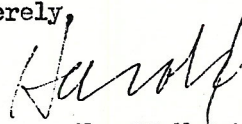
And good humored with it, despite all.

I am happy that you accumulated as many years as you ~~are~~ have. Almost a year ^{less} more than I.

I hope you are all well and happy, that the party is one you all enjoy, and I'm sorry I can't be there.

Thanks very much for the invitation.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

1/27/94

Dear Daves,

This woman's mother, Viola Braxton, lived near us in Wilmington. Viola did the house work for my mother after my father died and my mother kept the store.

She really was in every way a fine person and we all did really love her.

She raised a large family and they have all done well, very well, despite the discrimination against blacks in those days.

Four of them survive. I think one died.

There was no discrimination in our family or business, a mom and pop corner grocery. Viola ate with me often and I'm sure with the others. I mean we were at the same table at the same time.

I delivered the orders to the black customers, too, when it was more than they could carry. I had an express wagon.

There was only one legit. theater in Wilmington in those days, The Playhouse, in the DuPont Hotel. Black were admitted to it, but only in the uppermost balcony, called "peanut heaven." They were not admitted to white movies. No Jim Crow on the cars or in housing. I lived in a mixed neighborhood there. No Jim Crow on trains or busses.

My friends Joe and Sam also lived in a mixed neighborhood on the other side of town.

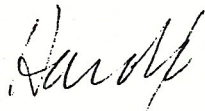
But I never heard of any black family living in any of the "better" neighborhoods.

I am, of course, honored that after all these years I would be welcome with them, and on an occasion.

Did I ever tell you that I led a sitdown strike in the more advanced of the two Walter Reed Hospital rehabilitation or reconditioning centers during World War II?

It was arranged for us to swim in the Greenbelt, "d. pool. The black in the bed next to me was excluded. I do not remember if any others went but I did not. I kept him company, more or less. No clear recollection now.

Best,



When we lived in Washington and had supper with black friends, we'd go to a black restaurant because blacks were not allowed in white restaurants! The favorite place was a fine restaurant in those days, Harrison's, on U St., NW